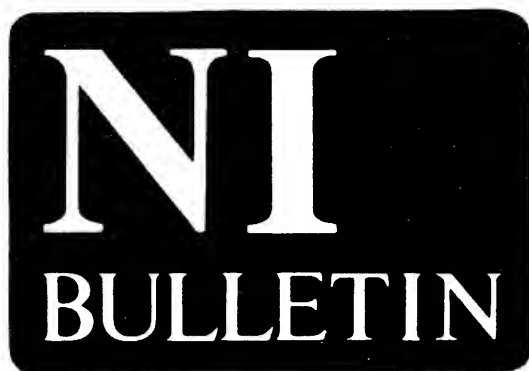


39 years of service to numismatics



MARCH 2004

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

FEATURES

- Afghanistan's First Coins, *by David Spencer Smith & Robert Tye*..... 53
Introduction to Spanish American Cobs, *by Herman Blanton* 59

DEPARTMENTS

- Member Notice Page 72

INSIDE N.I.

- Donations Report..... 51
From the Editor's Desk..... 52
Membership Chairman's Report 51
NI Meeting & Educational Forum at 2004 ANA Show in Portland 51
2004 Annual National Numismatic Congress of the British Association of
Numismatic Societies 52

OTHER ITEMS

- Our Lady of the Sacred Heart..... 71
Vieques the "Orphan" of the West Indies Countermarks – Addendum,
by Edward Roehrs 70
Zimbabwe Casino Tokens, *by Paul Baker* 69

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INSIDE N.I.

MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

March 2004 Applications for Membership: The following persons have applied for membership. If no written objections are received by May 1, 2004, their membership will become effective on that date.

2660-MT Arlen Hilton, 5220 7th St., Lubbock, TX 79416
(General)

2661-MT Marco Tejada, 11401 S/W 72nd Place, Miami, FL 33156
(Coins and Tokens of the Dominican Republic)

2662-MT Tom Van Pelt, 296 Grawtown Rd., Jackson, NJ 08527
(Shipwreck Coins and Spanish Cobs)



DONATIONS REPORT

We have received the following donations since the last report:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Donation</u>	<u>Preference of Use</u>
BURNS, John R.	\$5.00 Cash	General Operating Fund
WENKE, Steven	\$6.95 Cash	General Operating Fund
WESTERGAARD, J. Brix	\$10.00 Cash	<i>NI Bulletin</i> Fund



NI MEETING & EDUCATIONAL FORUM AT 2004 ANA SHOW IN PORTLAND

The next American Numismatic Association (ANA) National Money Show will be held in Portland, Oregon from the 26th to the 28th of March 2004, at the Oregon Convention Center. The show is hosted by the Willamette Coin Club and the show chairman is Larry Gaye. If you want more information about the show, please contact the convention staff at the ANA at convention@money.org and/or Larry Gaye at Light.Man@Verizon.com.

The Numismatics International (NI) General Meeting and Educational Forum will be held on Saturday, March 27th. The room has not yet been assigned but the time will be 12 Noon and more information can be obtained in the show program when you register if the room number is not published by show time. NI will also be sharing a club table with the IBNS and NBS.

Howard A. Daniel III will be the moderator of the meeting, and the speaker will be Scott Semans. The title of his talk is "Successful Formats for Numismatic Books".

Scott is a specialist in Asia, Africa and worldwide primitive pieces, and also stocks many, many references in his inventory. You can see his stock at www.coincoin.com.

Please bring one piece or set, or even a reference, to talk about in the “show and tell” portion of the meeting. You can contact Howard at Howard@SEAsianTreasury.com.



2004 ANNUAL NATIONAL NUMISMATIC CONGRESS OF THE BRITISH ASSOCIATION OF NUMISMATIC SOCIETIES

The 2004 Numismatic Congress of the British Association of Numismatic Societies (BANS) will be held at Chester College, Chester, England on April 2nd to the 4th. More information is found at www.coinclubs.freemove.co.uk/Chester/Chester.htm.

Several lectures are to be presented during the Congress including the following:

The Howard Linecar Memorial Lecture:- “The Times’, Roman Style” by Peter Clayton, FRNS.

“The Transition from Copper to Bronze Coinage in 1860”, by Stephen Kellern, President of YNS.

“Carian Dynastic Coinage”, by Keith Sugden, Keeper of Numismatics, Manchester Museum.

The Linden Holmes lecture:- “Eloye Mestrelle at Elizabeth’s Tower Mint”, by Dr. Christopher Challis and Christopher Comber.

“Over the North Bridge and on towards Leith”, by Andrew Andison.

“What is a British Colonial Coin?”, by Capt. Peter Thompson.

“Ancient meols – History from the sands”, by Dr. Simon Bean, NMG Merseyside.



FROM THE EDITOR’S DESK

The response for our request in the December issue for articles for publication was very minimal, but thanks do go out to those who did respond with material. Again, we are in dire need of new material for publication, so if you have not responded from your original promise of writing articles, please give us some serious consideration. It is looking like we will have to resort to some reprints of material that appeared in the *NI Bulletin* back in the 1970’s and 1980’s. Selection of these reprints will give serious consideration to articles that are of broad interest and not those representing dated material of interest mostly at the time of publication. The membership have always come through in the past, so do not let us down this time.

AFGHANISTAN'S FIRST COINS

David Spencer Smith, Miami, Florida NI #LM-92 and Robert Tye, York, England NI #2003

In 1933 a hoard of silver coins, with some jewelry fragments of no numismatic interest, was found by workers laying the foundation of a house at Chaman-i-Hazuri in the eastern section of Kabul, and a number were deposited in the National Museum in Kabul. Soon after, it was rumored that much of the hoard had been dispersed. The coins in the museum were described by Curiel and Schlumberger (1954).

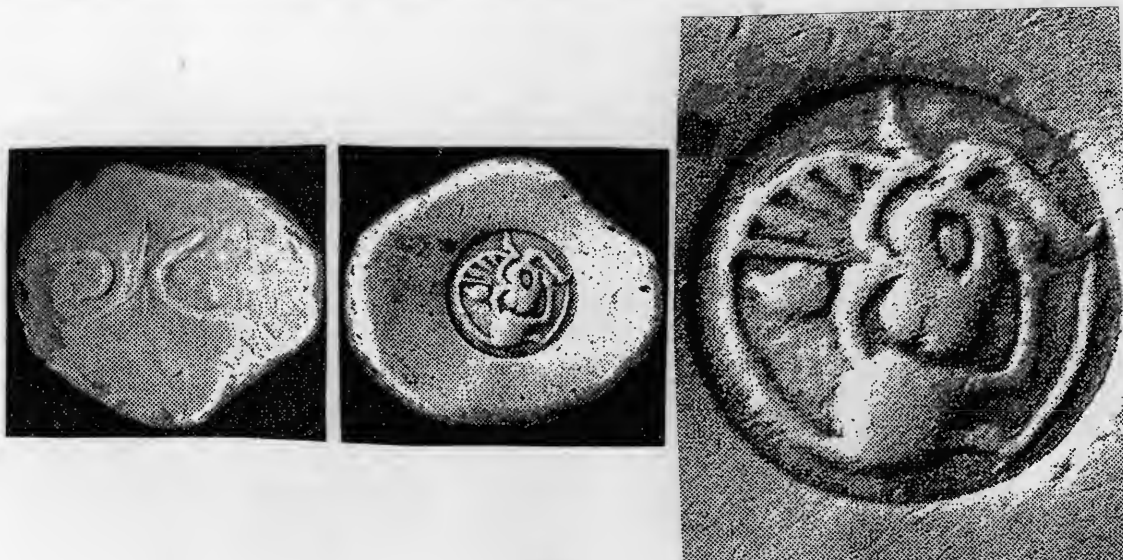


Fig. 1

Whatever the composition of the original hoard, these 127 coins proved to be of very great historical and numismatic interest. As described by Curiel and Schlumberger, the bulk of the coins were Greek, emanating from a remarkably wide range of cities and states including Aegina, Melos, Acanthos, Thasos, Aspendos, Samos and Marathon, dating from the start to late in the 5th century. "Athena / Owl" tetradrachms of Athens, from mid-5th century BC were well represented, with a single late, "barbarous" example from Levant or Persia. A few Royal Achaemenid *sigloi* were included which, judged on a stylistic basis, are probably early, before 450 BC. Curiel and Schlumberger grouped the remaining coins as "indigenous issues", which included short "bent-bars" of a previously unknown type. The rest of these coins are of particular interest here: these were termed "unpublished issues" and the specimen discussed here (Fig. 1) fits into this category, though it must be stressed that our coin was not part of the hoard and was obtained by Spink (London) in 1991. This coin is not alone in stemming from a later discovery; the "indigenous issue" shown in Fig. 8 in Cribb (1995) was purchased by the British Museum in 1984.

The latest coin in the hoard, the barbarous Athenian tetradrachm, was dated by Curiel and Schlumberger to around 380 BC. On this time frame all coins in the hoard would have been minted between approximately 380 BC and the turn of the 6th/5th centuries. Cyrus "The Great" established the Achaemenid (Persian) Dynasty in 539 BC after

conquering Medea. Under Cyrus the Empire extended to the western border of Afghanistan. Under his successor, Darius I, the Empire incorporated perhaps half of the known world, from Egypt and Macedonia, much of the Near East and a vast area of Central Asia, together with Afghanistan, which was administered through several satrapies. The Achaemenid Empire fell in 330 BC and Alexander the Great reached Kabul in 328 BC, so all the Chaman-i-Hazuri coins were minted during the Achaemenid era.

All the "indigenous" coins in the hoard seem perhaps to have been based on the Persian *siglos* of c.5.6g. The 12 complete bent bars weighed between 11.85 and 11.45g. All had similar motifs punched into either end: a central circle with dot from which radiate six spikes, each bisecting a small circlet at the edge of the design. In addition, a seventh "blind" spike without a circlet is often present. Longer, narrower bars bearing the same design, made to the same weight standard, are thought to be later. While the "bent bars" in the Kabul hoard may have been the forerunners of the series, the great majority of these, short and long, have been found in Pakistan, as for the two short examples shown in Figs 2 and 3, respectively weighing 11.31g and 11.54g. At first sight, these bars seem unrelated to the other "unpublished" coins in the hoard; however, this is not the case, and we will return to this question later. Questions of metrology of the earliest Indian and Lydian/Greek coins remain unanswered. In the present context it is possible that each indigenous coin represents a tola of 12 mashas – a very ancient Hindu unit of weight, at least as old as the city of Mohenjo-Daro, occupied for a millennium between 1500 and 2500 BC. However, the weight standard had seemingly been raised a little, perhaps to match Persian usage.

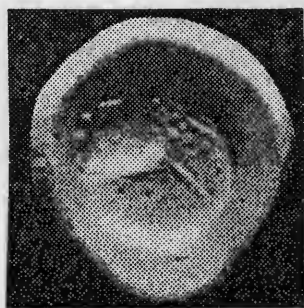


Figs.2 & 3

Curiel and Schlumberger illustrated the 29 remaining "unpublished" coins, all but two of which were scyphate, die-struck and most with designs on both obverse (convex) and reverse (concave) surfaces, though the latter were generally the more distinct. Cribb (1995) has observed that these coins were made by Greek rather than Indian technology.

We prefer to borrow the term "undescribed" from biological systematics in place of the

awkward "unpublished". Yet here the only undescribed coin forms the basis of this article; others were undescribed prior to Curiel and Schlumberger's account. Before we consider the remaining coins in detail, we will again refer to the coin (Fig. 1) that is central to this article. It weighs 11.28g, very close to two *sigloi*, in common with the "bent bars" and the heaviest group of die-struck coins in Curiel and Schlumberger's account, and it bears an animal on the reverse. Of the illustrations in this account, about five have a clear "quadruped animal design" on the reverse; seven others were seen by Curiel and Schlumberger as depicting animal images but which are not obvious to the present authors from the accompanying lithographs. Two coins that show clear animals on the reverse are illustrated in Figs 4 and 5. The former shows a creature, perhaps a horse or a deer, running to right, with one foreleg and most of the body. The second coin again shows an animal facing right, with a curved spine and "spikes" on the shoulders, and with all four limbs pointing downward. The face of this animal is reminiscent of a sheep or dog. Curiel and Schlumberger also note two obverses as showing an elephant's face, and another two are interpreted as depicting fish.



Figs. 4 & 5

The coin shown in Fig. 1 evidently belongs to the above series, but came from an unknown find-site before being purchased by Spink. It is slightly scyphate; the obverse bears two facing crescents separated by a vertical broken bar -- a design not recorded on any of the Kabul hoard coins. The reverse is likewise novel; a very distinctive if contorted animal. The head, with mouth, eye and perhaps an ear are evident, and a line extending from the head might represent a horn. The body curves and includes four transverse lines and a small blob, with a large blob representing the hindquarters from which two legs emerge. Details are shown in the enlarged inset; it is difficult to describe such a peculiar image!

We cannot identify the creature shown on this coin. If the horn is correctly interpreted it is conceivable that the engraver had a *markhor* in mind -- the mountain goat depicted abundantly in petroglyphs several centuries later in northern Pakistan, notably on the Buddhist "sacred rocks" at Ganesh, in the Hunza valley. With one exception noted below, it is not possible to identify with certainty any animal on these early Afghan coins. However, they all seem to be domestic or at least benign-- no bear, snow leopards or other predators. Little seems to be known of settlers in the Kabul valley prior to the 6th/5th centuries BC but it is likely that several pastoral communities were present.

Livestock or other animals used for food would be crucial to these communities; thus it might be inferred that the coins described by Curiel and Schlumberger relate to such settlements. It seems entirely possible that all of these structurally uniform coins were produced by a single mint. The few examples believed to show fish may extend this pattern. Of the geometric figures, and the six-rayed symbol prototypes, we can glean nothing.

Improved images of several of the Chaman-i-Hazuri coins came through a remarkable sequence of events. In a work on the pre-Kushan coins from Pakistan, Bopearachchi and ur Rahman (1995) illustrated 14 coins from Chaman-i-Hazuri with high quality engravings, greatly superior to Curiel and Schlumberger's figures. One of these, Fig. 1 in Bopearachchi and ur Rahman's work, proves to bear a beautifully engraved deer, with branched antlers on the reverse (Fig. 6 and enlargement), and two facing bulls on the obverse, clearly derived from the coinage of Lydia or Lesbos of the mid-6th century BC. There is no reason to doubt Curiel and Schlumberger's listing of other coins bearing animal designs, but often these details cannot be resolved in their figures. Why one coin should show such an elegant image as this deer and another the grotesque animal in Fig. 1 we cannot explain. Whether the various animal types were issued in sequence or contemporaneously is likewise unknown.

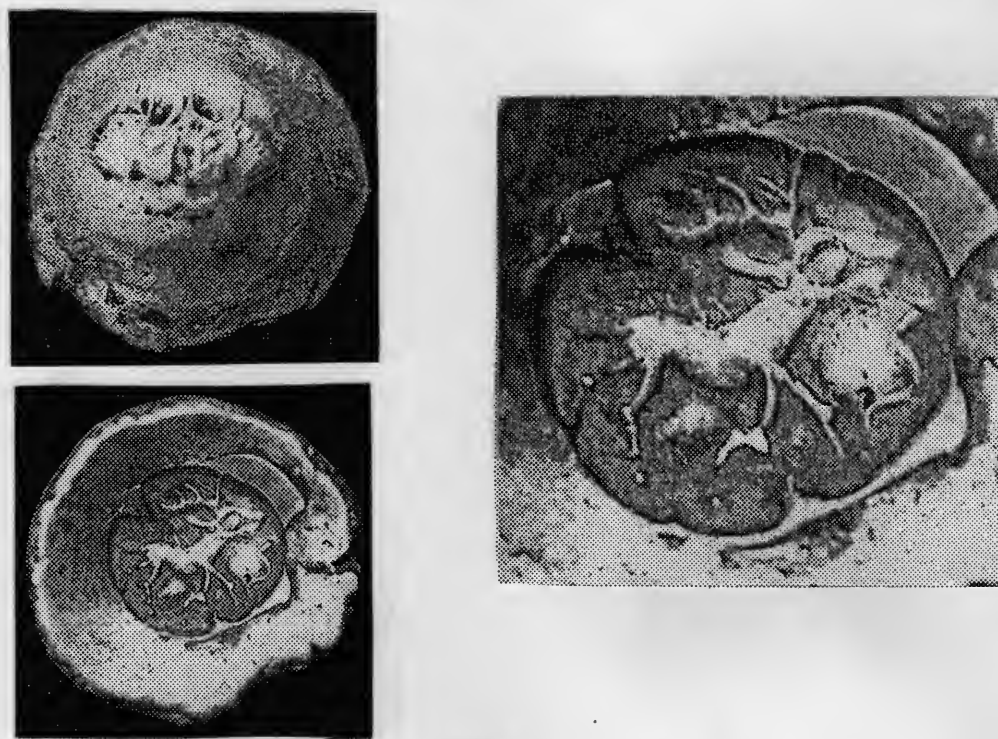


Fig. 6

But how did these coins from the National Museum of Afghanistan come to be illustrated in a work on coins found in Pakistan? A Guide to the National Museum of Afghanistan (Dupree *et al.*, 1974) lists the hoards possessed by the Kabul Museum and their arrangement in the Coin Room. The collections of this Museum were

comprehensively pillaged under warlords in the period of civil war following departure of the Soviets, and whatever remained by the Taliban towards the end of their period of rule. In an Internet summary of recent damage to archaeological sites in Afghanistan, Raven (2002) first addresses the size of the original hoard, that: *"Informants reported that some 1,000 silver coins were recovered, but this assessment was never supported by coin evidence; some 127 coins, all definitely from the Chaman-i-Hazuri hoard found their way to the Kabul Museum."* He goes on to confirm that the coins of the hoard were: *"lost . . . from the plundered cabinet of the National Museum in Kabul."* The story of the 14 Afghan coins illustrated in Bopearachchi and ur Rahman (1995) is told by Bopearachchi in the Introduction to the work, in which he expresses his great appreciation for ur Rahman's gesture in: *"volunteering to return to UNESCO the fourteen coins from the famous Tchaman-i-Hazouri hoard that he had purchased, unknowingly, from the local market which turned out to have been a part of the treasures of the recently looted Kabul Museum."* We have no information on the present whereabouts of the rest of the hoard.

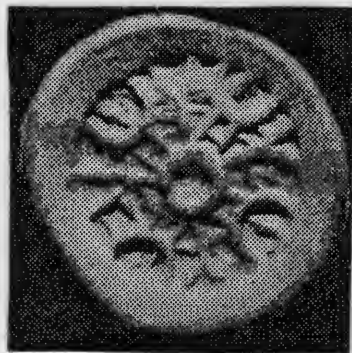


Fig. 7

Returning to the "bent bars", both the accounts of Curiel and Schlumberger and Bopearachchi and ur Rahman provide further evidence, apart from the weight congruence, that these and the other undescribed coins were part of the same monetary system, and almost certainly made around same time. First, the struck "indigenous" coins include several with a reverse design that more or less approximates to the 6-rayed motif of the "bent bars", the closest of which is shown in Fig. 7. While most of the circular coins were die-struck, two specimens in the hoard were true "punch-marked" coins using a technique that was to be used to make vast numbers of Indian coins: a flat flan, laid on a flat surface and hammer-punched with, in these cases, three designs (Figs 12, 13 of Bopearachchi and ur Rahman, 1995). They noted that one of the punches in their Figure 12 had also served as the reverse die of a struck coin (Pl. III, 19 of Curiel and Schlumberger (1954)).

The coins of the Chaman-i-Hazuri hoard thus not only show the penetration of a range of Greek issues far to the east, but also demonstrate local production of coins under the Achaemenid regime using Greek rather than Indian technology. At the same time, the indigenous "bent bars" and the die-struck coins may have served as prototypes for the

later coin series bearing a six-rayed symbol in the region of Kabul. The two true punch-marked coins in the hoard may similarly be regarded as prototypes for the vast range of coinages made by this method in present Pakistan and India. Evidently, all coins in the hoard were produced in the Achaemenid era, prior to the arrival of Alexander. It seems likely that the indigenous coins were made during the 5th century, with most of the dateable coins belonging to mid-5th century. It seems very probable that only part of the hoard reached the Kabul Museum, with opportunities for removal and even for addition of coins *en route*. While Cribb (1992) proposes a date of c.350 BC for deposition, we suggest that, like most of the accompanying coins, these pieces were already 50 or 100 years old when they were buried.

Perhaps no region in Central Asia has undergone as much turmoil and as many political upheavals in two and a half millennia as present Afghanistan. Following the Achaemenid period, then Alexander's short-lived Eastern Empire, rulers of Greek origin ruled Bactrian Afghanistan first *via* the Seleucids, then in their own right. Next came the Kushans, then the Ephthalites. Islam reached Afghanistan late in the 7th century AD. Turkic tribes supervened in the 10th and 11th centuries, and the devastation of Genghiz Khan arrived early in the 13th century. For large parts of the 19th and 20th centuries Afghanistan became a battleground and the turmoil continues to the present day. Although we cannot accurately date the coin discussed here, or similar coins from the Chaman-i-Hazuri hoard, 350 BC is the latest date proposed, with half a century earlier quite possible. If some of the die-struck coins indeed provided the prototype design adopted for the "bent bars", then they were presumably somewhat earlier, and in all probability represent the first coins of an as yet untroubled Afghanistan.

Acknowledgement

The authors express their thanks to Dr O. Bopearachchi for permission to reproduce figures from his work with A. ur Rahman, cited below.

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INTRODUCTION TO SPANISH AMERICAN COBS

Herman Blanton, Mount Vernon, Ohio, NI #LM-115



Image ©Cayón Auctions, used with permission

Cobs, called macuquinas in Spanish, are a crude style of hand hammered coins, struck in Spain and Spanish America. These coins are typically crudely made irregular shaped pieces. It is this style that makes them intriguing, along with the fact that they are lore from the Spanish conquest of America. As we hold these coins and study them, we can envision the explorations and discoveries of the conquistadors and of pirates searching the seas for ships carrying these “pieces of eight” back to Spain.

Coins used during the Spanish Conquest of America, circa 1500-1550

The coinage in Europe at the end of the middle ages was a two tier system, gold and silver. The gold money issued throughout Europe was generally of high purity, the same can not be said of the silver money.

For the most part the silver money was debased with copper, progressively so until the silver content was so small that the money was essentially copper. From time to time there were reforms to restore the integrity of the coinage, but debasement would soon start anew.

During the late middle ages, coins were produced at numerous small mints, by anyone strong enough to have control of their own region. An area the size of a typical US county might have had several operating mints. Most coins were nominally silver and quite small in size, about the size of the US dime, except thinner than a dime.

Spain held tight control of access to her New World colonies, as a result, the predominant money in use was Spanish.

Coins of Ferdinand & Elizabeth

Ferdinand and Elizabeth continued the consolidation of the Iberian peninsula, forging the Spanish peoples into a nation. For numismatists, their pragmática of **Medina del Campo** in 1497 is of great significance, as this established a national standard for weight and for design of money. Little did they know that this new standard of theirs

would last for centuries, and is the base from which the US dollar would emerge, today the universal standard for the world.



*1/2 Real of Ferdinand and Elizabeth.
Image ©Paul Karon, used with permission.*



2 Excelentes of Ferdinand and Elizabeth

Ferdinand and Elizabeth at Medina del Campo, all the laws of this official year up to June 13, 1497.

Law II

Furthermore we ordered, and we commanded, that in each one of these mints another silver money, that is called real, to be cut out, and with weight of sixty seven reales in each Mark*, and not less; and fineness of eleven-twelfths, and four grains, and not less; these made into reales, half reales, and quarter reales, eighth reales, which all are kept one to one, because they are of equal weight, and of the silver make a third in reales, and the another third in half reales, and the other third in quarter reales, eighths are half (a quarter real), and which the eighths are to be square, and that on the reales put on one side our Royal arms, and on the other side the yoke, which is the device of me the King, and the arrows device of my Queen, and that says in legend that continues on both sides *Ferdinandus, et Elisabeth, Rex, et Regina Castellae, et Legionis, et*

Aragonum, et Siciliae, et Granatae or as much as will fit, and on the square eighths an F with a crown above, and on the other side a Y with a crown above and around them the legend, as with the reales which have our devices, one on one side, and the other one on the other side; and around them the legend as with the reales.

Law XXXVIII

Furthermore, because, if money of gold, or of silver is found to be under weight, the assayer will be known by his assay mark on it, we ordered and we commanded that each assayer signs each piece with his mark, by which it is known who did the assay on that coin, because if the fineness is found low, we know which assayer with whom to take corrective measures in return: and we commanded to the engravers of each one of these mints to place in the dies the mark that the assayer will indicate to him in the presence of the mint scribe, so that he records it in his book, and that way knows the assayer's mark and who will be punished if one is found to be deficient.

(Excerpts of the laws taken from: **Heiss, Aloiss.** 1865-1869 *Descripción general de las monedas hispano-cristianas desde la invasión de los árabes.* Madrid: Impreso de M. Galiano. 3 tomos. **Tomo Primero, páginas 323-4.**)

- The Mark was a German standard weight, in Spain the weight varied by a slight amount, on average it was equal to 230.1232 grams.



*Group of Ferdinand and Elizabeth reales.
These coins are one real pieces, the standard currency in Spanish America at the time of conquest.
Shown with a US cent for comparison.*

Mexico

As a result of the tremendous treasure exploited in the New World, Spain began to produce multiple size real coins, in the denominations of 2, 4 and 8 reales. In 1535 Queen Joanna authorized the building of a mint in Mexico, coins were first produced in January 1536. Here is a group of coins from the Mexico City mint. These are not considered cobs by numismatists, because they were made from sheets of metal instead of bars of metal. Think of them as forerunners of cobs. These are known as Charles & Joanna coins and are very popular among collectors.



*These coins circulated alongside the Ferdinand and Elizabeth pieces.
Shown with US cent for comparison.*

Mexico – Charles & Joanna

Mexico produced $\frac{1}{4}$, $\frac{1}{2}$, 1, 2 & 3 real pieces of silver, and some copper coins. The 3 reales was a short-lived issue because it was easily confused with the 2 reales. The 3 reales was replaced with a 4 reales and is the largest Charles and Joanna type from Mexico. (One 8 real is reported.)



4 Reales, assayer L

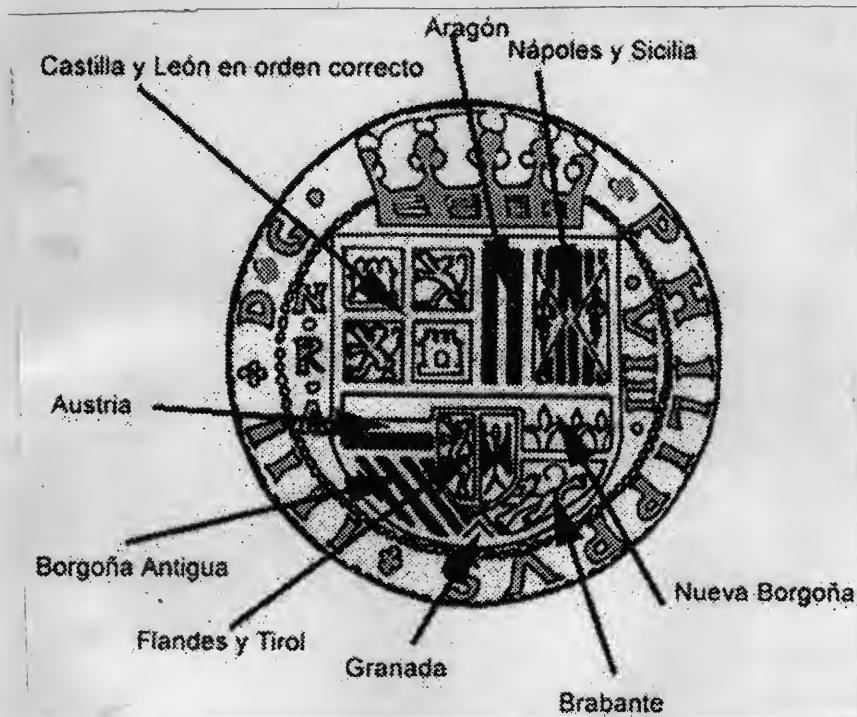
Styles

Cob coinage continued in Spanish America until 1773, just 3 years before the American Revolution. There were Spanish mints in Mexico, Santo Domingo, Lima, Potosi, Santa Fé, Cartagena, La Plata and Panama. By far the most important of these were Mexico and Potosi. The Mexico City mint has been in continuous operation since its founding in 1535.

Let's take a look at the series by way of the Siegfried von Schuckman collection of Latin American Colonial 8 Reales, which sold in December 2001. All images used from the catalog are with permission of Cayón Auctions.

There are two major types of cobs, the "Shield" type and the "Pillars and Waves" type. Mexico used only the shield design on their coins, whereas Cartagena, Santa Fé, Potosi and Lima use both. Let's look at a drawing of the shield design, from Dr. Jorge Emilio Restrepo's book *Macuquinas de Colombia*, used with permission.

ESCUDO DE HABSBURGO



Mexico – 8 reales of Philip III



Image ©Cayón Auctions, used with permission

Spanish coins are traditionally cataloged according to the ruler, the side of the coin that shows the king's name is considered the obverse. This is an 8 reales of Philip III, his ordinal is visible at 6 o'clock on the obverse.

The distinctive cross design easily identified this coin as Mexico. The cross has a lily flower at each end, though this looks more like a canon ball. Mexico maintained this basic design until switching to milled coinage in 1732.

Lima 8 reales of Philip II - First silver dollar of the Americas



Image ©Cayón Auctions, used with permission

Assayer Alonso Rincón, mint mark P for Peru. Struck between December 1568 and January 1569. Seven pieces are known, very important and highly sought after. Pieces have sold in the \$30,000 to \$100,000 range.

**Lima 8 reales of Philip II
Assayer Diego de la Torre**



Image ©Cayón Auctions, used with permission

Assayer Diego de la Torre produced the finest cobs to come from the Lima mint. The coins are generally round, well designed and well struck. The denomination is expressed as Roman numerals and Arabic numerals, assayer mark is known on both the left and the right side. The star is a mint mark for Lima, as the city was founded on the 12th day of Epiphany, January 6th (1535). That is the day the Magi presented their gifts to the infant Jesus. Lima is known as the city of the kings for this reason.

Star of Lima 8 reales



Image ©Cayón Auctions, used with permission.

The Lima mint had closed in 1588. For a brief period in 1659 and 1660 the mint reopened, but without Royal permission. Once King Philip IV found out about it, he ordered its immediate closure. The mint remained closed until 1683 with coinage resuming in 1684.

This type has the pillars of Hercules and ocean waves design, as ordered by the king in 1650 for South American mints.

The Star of Lima issue has several varieties, the variety here has no date and "PLVS ULTRA" in the center, 2 pieces known. The total known pieces including all varieties is 40-50.

Lima 8 reales – Pillars and Waves



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Pillars and Waves style Lima cob. This type coin is characterized by thick chunky planchets. On the reverse side of the coin, beneath the date and pillars are the ocean waves, notice that the ocean waves go down in the center, this is typical for Lima cobs and is a key diagnostic to distinguish between Lima and Potosi. On Potosi cobs, generally the waves go up in the center.

Mint mark L, assayer H. The king's ordinal, V, can be seen on the obverse at 5 o'clock. (Philip V)

Potosi 8 reales – Shield Type



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In the early part of the 17th century, Potosi was the most prolific of the American mints. Thousands of such coins were recovered from the 1622 shipwreck of the Atocha. The famous Potosi mint scandal put an end to this design for new world mints, except Mexico, whose design was distinctively different and whose integrity was not called into question.

Potosi 8 reales – Pillars and Waves



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Pillars and Waves style Potosi cob. The quality of the Potosi cobs declined over the entire span of production, this is a superior quality example for this late date. The date is 1733 with the 1 implied, (1)733. Mint mark is P, assayer mark is Y A.

Santa Fé 8 reales – Shield Type Assayer Miguel Pinto Carmargo



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Philip III, very rare 8 Reales of Santa Fé de Bogotá (Colombia), with a partial date of 1628. The mint mark is NR and the assayer on this piece is P, located on the obverse, left of the shield. This style began in 1627 and continued until 1650, though only a few dates are known. The reported date of 1625 is a mis-attribution. There is an earlier style dated 1622.

**Santa Fé 8 reales – Pillars and Waves
Assayer Pedro Garcia de Villanueva**



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Charles II, very rare 8 reales of Santa Fé de Bogotá (Colombia), dated 1690. The pillars and waves style began in 1651 and continued until 1756, the final date known is 1742. This is one of 3 pieces known dated 1690.

This design varied among the mints of South America. The obverse has: Arms of Castile in a cross or shield format. The reverse has pillars of Hercules and ocean waves.

So called “Royals”

The Spanish American mints occasionally produced some specially made cob coins of highest quality. These are called “Redondos” in Spanish which means round ones. In some recently uncovered mint archives of Potosi these are called “Galanos”, which means elegant ones. But the name “Royals” seems to stick even though there is no evidence to support calling them such. They were first called this by Hans Schulman in one of his auction catalogs.

Regardless of what we call them, they are still beautiful. As Shakespeare put it, “What’s in a name? This which we call a rose by any other name would smell as sweet.” (*Romeo and Juliet. Act ii. Sc.2.*)



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Mexico. 8 reales royal. No date (circa 1607). F (Francisco de los Cobos or Esteban Franco). Of highest rarity, less than 3 or 4 known.



Image ©Cayón Auctions, used with permission

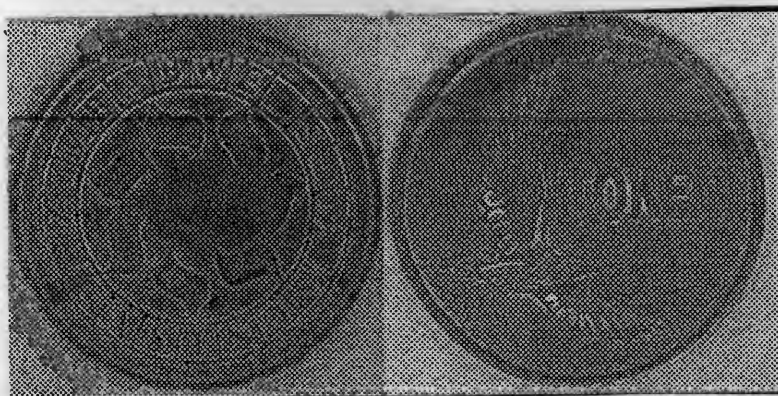
Potosi. 8 reales royal. 1680. V (Pedro Villar). Holed. VF+. Huge 46mm. Flan. 98% struck. Unusually nice. Very rare.

Laus Deo.

ZIMBABWE CASINO TOKENS

Paul Baker, NI #2615

Illustrated below are two tokens issued by "Zimbabwe Sun Hotels, Resorts and Lodges", a company with a number of hotels throughout Zimbabwe including 4 casinos.



Brass, 5.5 grams, 26.5mm diameter.



Copper-Nickel, 6.0 grams, 24mm diameter.

VIEQUES THE "ORPHAN" OF THE WEST INDIAN COUNTERMARKS – ADDENDUM

Edward Roehrs, Arecibo, Puerto Rico, NI #1828

In the *NI Bulletin* of February 2001, Vol. 37, No. 2, there appeared a feature entitled, Vieques the "Orphan" of the West Indian Countermarks, by the writer. I would like to make several corrections, due to new discoveries and a clarification of Jules Fonrobert's listing of the Vieques countermarks.

I quote from the above mentioned article. "Fonrobert places the use of this countermark, (Ohne Jahr. 1850) and, as his catalogue was published only 30 years later than the last dated coin of the counterstamped Danish West Indian pieces, (Vieques) it would seem it was fresh in the memory of contemporary numismatists and should be accepted as a fact. There is the slight possibility that if the 1848, II, X, & XX Skillings plain edged pieces were counterstamped it would bring the stamping date after 1856".

The Danish West Indian II, X, & XX Skillings dated 1848 with a center grained edge were minted in 1848. It is to be noted that the plain edged II, X, & XX Skillings Danish West Indian pieces bearing the same dated, 1848, were actually minted in 1856. Fonrobert in his catalogue of Danish West Indian coinage, list #7677 (the II Skilling) and described it as "Glatter Rand", from the German-smooth edged.

In his catalogue of the Danish West Indies Skillings countermarked for Vieques item #7754 (no date 1850?) he refers to this piece, #7677, the "mother" coin, (II Skilling) as being smooth edged or (the 1856 striking), counterstamped with a 13 rayed star. In effect the dates this pieces as being of the 1856 issue! Allowing for a two year gestation period he should have listed this piece as (no date, 1858).

At a recent Danish auction I acquired another 1848 Danish West Indies II Skillings, plain edged and a 1848 Danish West Indies X Skillings, plain edged piece both counterstamped with a 13 rayed star. I believe with this evidence we can firmly date the Danish West Indian Skillings, counterstamped for Vieques, as being stamped after 1856.

The cut 2 real piece #1202 from the Byrne Sale, counterstamped with a 12 rayed circle and "v", purporting to be from Vieques and illustrated in the same article, recently found an illicit mate, on Ebay. Cf. photo of round plug cut from a Spanish American eight real, counterstamped with the same 12 pointed star but lacking the "v". Obviously it has nothing to do with Vieques.

In 1942 the United States Navy expropriated nearly two thirds of the Island (21,000 acres) and established the largest naval base in the surrounding waters in the U.S.A. They used it for training and bombing practice for over 60 years. In the year 2003 the Navy withdrew due to protests from the local inhabitants. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service took over the Navy's holdings and now manages the largest wildlife refuge in the Caribbean. The refuge remains closed until the danger of unexploded ordnance can be removed.

OUR LADY OF THE SACRED HEART

Bob Forrest, Manchester, England, NI #2382

In 1854 Father Jules Chevalier, of Issoudun in central France, felt the urge to found a missionary society to counteract the religious indifference and social evils of the times. His aim was to rescue “lost sheep” by leading them to the Sacred Heart of Jesus as “the healing source of life”. The society was to be called the Order of Missionaries of the Sacred Heart. The priest invoked the help of the Virgin Mary in his enterprise, and so successful was his appeal to her (principally in the form of the unexpected appearance of an anonymous donation of 20,000 francs!) that he felt his Order should honour her with some special form of devotion in return. Thus it came about that as the Order spread – and it spread rapidly (within 25 years it had branches throughout Europe and had spread to North America) – a devotion to the Virgin under the specially chosen title of “Our Lady of the Sacred Heart” spread with it. As I have said elsewhere (“Lourdes and Fatima Revisited”, in *NI Bulletin*, October 2003, p. 301-307), this was a neat way to combine two very popular forms of devotion: reverence for the Virgin Mary with reverence for the Sacred Heart of Jesus. By 1874 the church of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart at Issoudun had achieved basilica status, and the statue of her there had been given a papal coronation. A Confraternity of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart was founded in that same year, and by 1891 it had some 18 million members.



Fig. 1

The modern French medal in aluminium shown 1½ times actual size in Fig. 1 has, on its obverse, Our Lady of the Sacred Heart (NOTRE DAME DU SACRE COEUR) holding the Infant Jesus in her left arm, both of them pointing to his Sacred Heart. Its reverse is a standard half-length image of the adult Christ pointing to his Sacred Heart. A very similar Belgian medal, slightly smaller and in bronze, has obverse legend O.L.V. VAN HET H. HART B.V.O., this being the Flemish equivalent of the French legend of Fig. 1, and meaning, “Our Lady of the Sacred Heart, pray for us”.

An older (late 19th century?) German variation on the themes of Fig. 1, in bronze, is shown 1½ times actual size in Fig. 2. Here, on the obverse, the Virgin shields a standing Infant Jesus (again, it seems, pointing to his heart, though the medal is somewhat worn at this point) in the folds of her cloak, with the accompanying legend reading U.L' FRAU VOM HEILIGSTEN HERZEN BITT FÜR UNS (the German



Fig. 2

equivalent of the aforementioned French and Flemish legends). The reverse shows a standard full-length figure of the adult Christ revealing his Sacred Heart, with the legend HEILIGSTES HERZ JESU ERBARME DICH UNSER (= Most Holy Heart of Jesus, have mercy on us.)

Sources.

See the following web-sites: <http://www.misacor.org/en/jules.htm> for "The Founder of the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart: Fr. Jules Chevalier"; and <http://www.misacor.org/en/olsh.htm> for "Our Lady of the Sacred Heart".

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